IT'S A TEEN-AGE LAUGH RIOT WHEN YOU

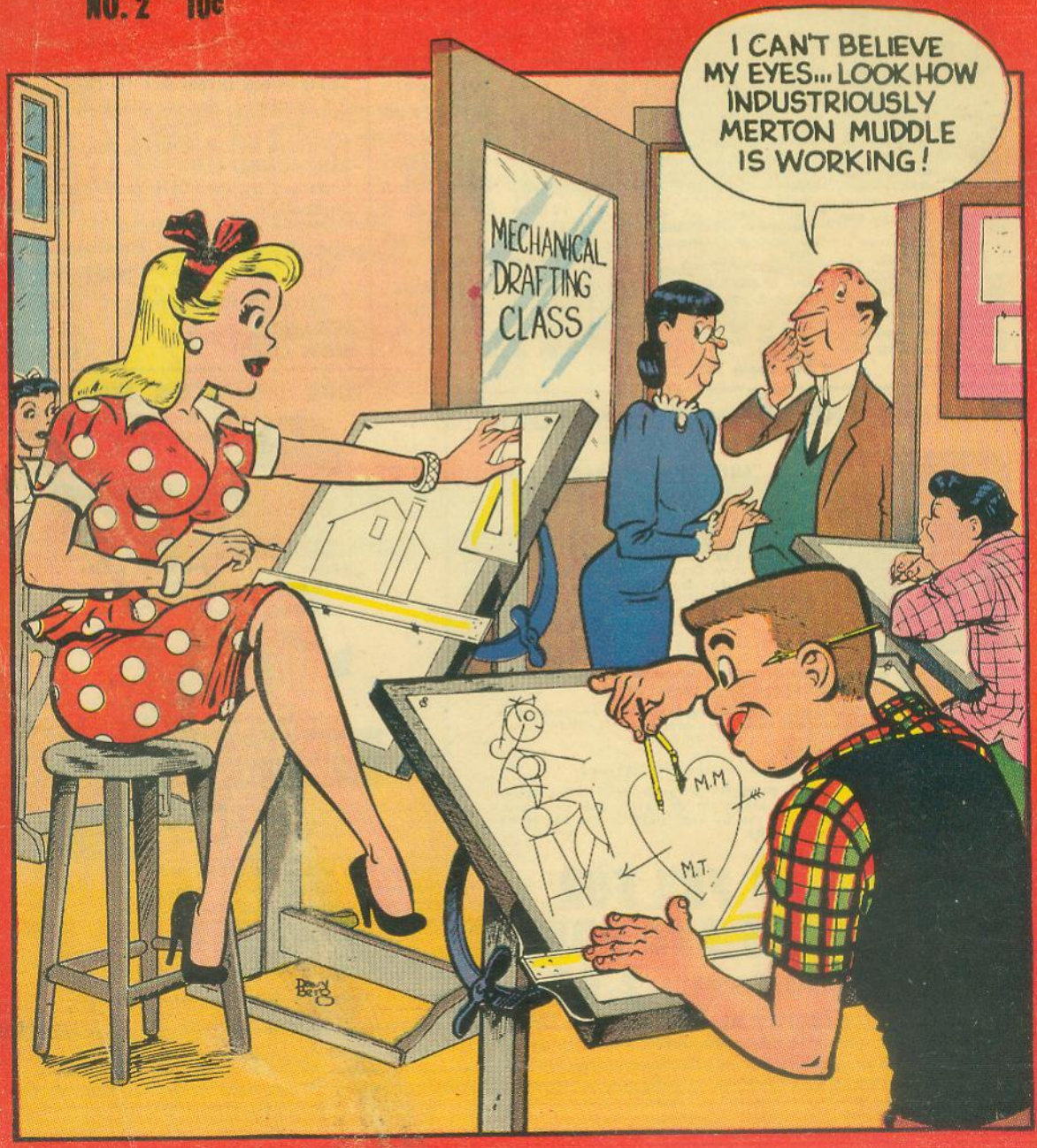
MEET

# MERTON

TOBY

ANC

NO. 2 10c



WEBCOMIC UNIVERSE.COM

# ALL TIME FAVORITES—SMASH VALUES

## COULD YOU USE $1,000,000.00?

We'd Like to Hand You the Million — But You Realize That's Impossible



BUT WE CAN MAKE YOU HEALTHY WITH HIP POCKET GYM WEIGHS ONLY 1½ lbs.



Put On Muscle — Take Off Fat

**First Time Special Offer**

**$3.95** Postpaid Sold Nationwide at $5.95

**THERE'S NO MAGIC, NO MIRACLES—**

HIP POCKET GYM helps both stout and skinny people. Using scientific and medical principles, it helps the body help itself by automatically adjusting to your strength and ability. You do not have to be Mr. America — even children can use it!

**SO SIMPLE! SO EASY!**

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- Builds Health in Veterans Hospitals! HIP POCKET GYM is used in Veterans Hospitals.
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**5 Day Money Back Guarantee**

**MR. AMERICA USES HIP POCKET GYM!**

Among the Mr. Americas of the last three years you'll find a fan of HIP POCKET GYM! In a recent article in a top health and strength magazine he was photographed in 13 poses showing his favorite exercises with HIP POCKET GYM — for developing the biceps, triceps, neck and for adding inches to the back and shoulders.

**FREE**

**with every HIP POCKET GYM you get FREE a Complete Book of Health and Strength Exercises! Makes a Wonderful Gift for everyone.**

## ALL AMERICAN JACKET



Ideal professional style warm-up jacket. Beautifully tailored satin. Contrasting colored sleeve panels knitted collar, wrists, waistband. Warm lining. Weather-sealed! Great for sport, school, any time or place. Colors: Scarlet & White; Royal Blue & Gold; Royal Blue & White; Maroon & Gold; Kelly & Orange.) Boys' sizes 6-20 — $6.95, Men's sizes 34-48 — $8.95 FREE: Your own initials on your jacket!

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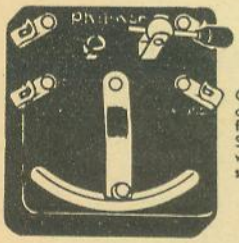
**Close Decisions as in Big Leagues**

A challenge to baseball fans, youth or adult

**FORMERLY $5.00**

**NOW ONLY $3.95**

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***"Little Wonder"* RADIO SET**

Compact in size but big in results. The open type detector permits adjustments to be made to the finest degree. This set includes the Philmore Super-sensitive Crystal which assures quick results when "looking" for a station, because the entire surface of the crystal is sensitive.

- Specially designed hook-up assuring reception within a radius of twenty-five (25) miles from a broadcasting station.
- Under favorable climatic conditions reception may be received as far as one hundred (100) miles from broadcasting station.
- Costs nothing for upkeep.
- No batteries, tubes or expensive accessories required.
- Manufactured in Genuine BAKELITE in various colors. The advantages of bakelite are well-known for its beauty and cleanliness. It will retain its color and can be kept clean for the life of the set which is practically infinite.

## LOOK LIKE A BIG LEAGUER!



**Wear This Major League BASEBALL CAP**

(NOT A CHEAP IMITATION)

Real Big League Team colors and insignia. Custom tailored professional all wool with genuine leather sweat-band. Shower-proof. Your choice of any American or National League Team. **STATE TEAM & SIZE $2.98**

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**Intimate-Action-Packed Story of His Life in This 244 Pages—$1 Postpaid**

# LOTS OF FUN FOR YOUNGSTERS AND ADULTS

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**L. BLUE 1500 Village Rd. UNION, N.J.**

Gentlemen: Please send me the following:

ENCLOSED find cash, check or money order.

| | | | |
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| ☐ Hip Pocket Gym | $3.95 | ☐ Radio Set | $2.98 |
| ☐ Boys Jacket | $6.95 | ☐ Baseball Hat | $2.98 |
| ☐ Mens Jacket | $8.95 | ☐ T-Shirt | $1.29 |
| ☐ Pro Baseball | $3.95 | ☐ DiMaggio Book | $1.00 |

Name.....

Address.....

City.....Zone..... State.....

**MEET MERTON, FEBRUARY, 1954, No. 2 Published Bi-Monthly by TOBY PRESS, Inc., 17 East 45th Street, New York 17, N.Y.** Mel Lazarus, Art Director. Benton J. Resnik, General Manager. Application for entry as second-class matter is pending. Single copies 10 cents. Subscription rate, 10 issues for $1.00 in the United States and Possessions; elsewhere, $1.50. Copyrighted 1953 by Toby Press, Inc. The stories, names, characters, incidents, and institutions mentioned or portrayed in this periodical, excepting those who have authorized the use of their names herein, are entirely imaginary and fictitious, and no identification with actual persons, living or dead, is intended or should be inferred. Printed in the U. S. A.

# They claim this coupon brings you "good luck"



"Six months after mailing the coupon, I had a promotion and a big raise in pay!"



"From the moment I marked the coupon, my luck changed!"



"My break came when I sent the coupon!"

***These statements are typical!*** I.C.S. gets letters like these regularly. Coupon senders report pay raises. Others win important promotions or new, interesting assignments. Still others find happiness, job security, opportunities never dreamed possible.



***Is it LUCK?*** The results are so impressive, so quick in coming, that some say the I.C.S. coupon is "lucky." Of course, that's not true. The real reason for these amazing results is what happens to the person when he or she mails the coupon.

***Coupon is first step!*** Naturally, you want to make good. But you've put off doing something about it. Mailing this coupon is *definite action!* It shows you're fed up with waiting for the breaks. You're determined to make your own breaks! And this determination alone accounts for much of the "luck" you'll start to experience.



***You get free guidance!*** Within a few days you get the helpful and inspiring 36-page book, "How to Succeed." It's crammed with information. For example, it tells you in detail how to plan your career. Also how to prepare for advancement. In addition, you get a free catalog on the I.C.S. course that interests you. With your new-found determination and these two books as your guides, you're ready to cash in on your hidden abilities!

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*Call it being "lucky" or being "smart." Whatever it is, you're one step closer to your goal when you mail this famous coupon!*

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ICS

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**AUTOMOTIVE**
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- ☐ Auto-Elec. Technician
- ☐ Auto Body Rebuilding and Refinishing
- ☐ Diesel—Gas Engines

**AVIATION**
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- ☐ Aircraft Engine Mechanic
- ☐ Airplane Drafting

**BUILDING**
- ☐ Architecture
- ☐ Arch. Drafting
- ☐ Building Contractor
- ☐ Estimating
- ☐ Carpenter and Mill Work
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- ☐ Reading Blueprints
- ☐ House Planning
- ☐ Plumbing
- ☐ Heating
- ☐ Steam Fitting
- ☐ Air Conditioning
- ☐ Electrician

**BUSINESS**
- ☐ Business Administration
- ☐ Certified Public Accountant
- ☐ Accounting
- ☐ Bookkeeping
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- ☐ Secretarial
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- ☐ Business Correspondence
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- ☐ Traffic Management

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- ☐ Aircraft Drafting
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- ☐ Electrical Engineering
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- ☐ Textile Designing

***YEAR OF THE SIX MILLIONTH STUDENT***

Name_____ Age_____ Home Address_____

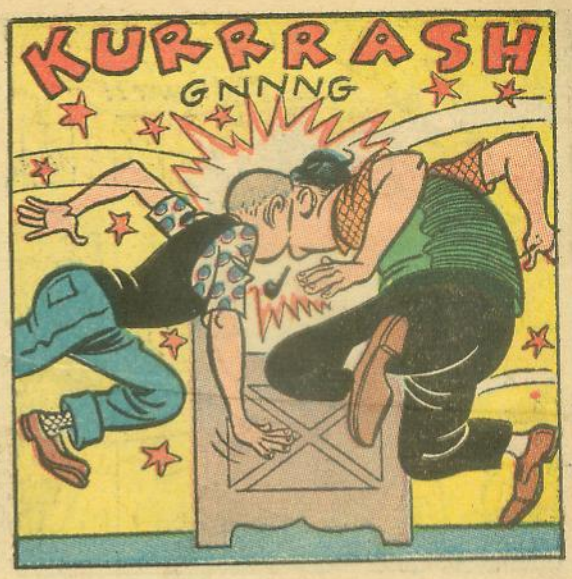
City_____ Zone_____ State_____ Working Hours_____ A.M. to_____ P.M.

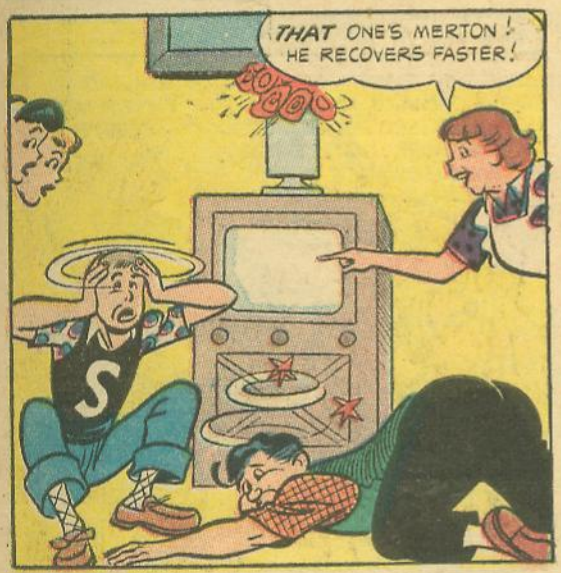
☐ If under 18, check here for booklet A.

Special tuition rates to members of the U. S. Armed Forces. Canadian residents send coupon to International Correspondence Schools Canadian, Ltd., Montreal, Canada.

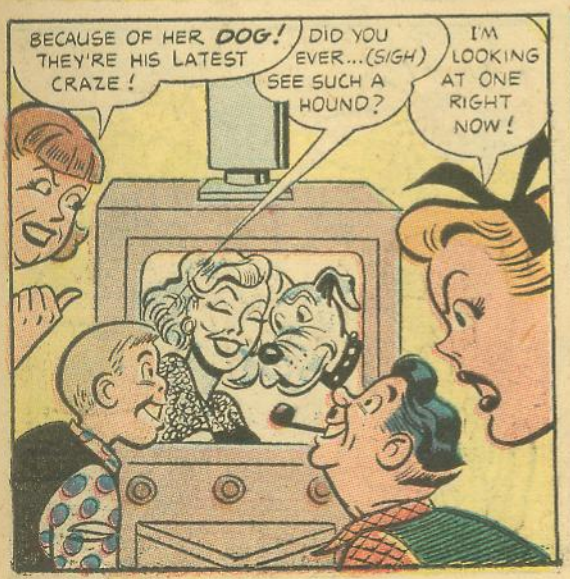

MERTON
Man Makers, Inc.
HOW DO YOU EVER TELL WHICH IS MERTON AND WHICH IS YOUR HUSBAND WHEN THEY'RE NAPPING THIS WAY, MRS. MUDDLE ?
IT'S EASY! WATCH...
TIME FOR THE MARILYN BONROE SHOW ON TV !
WHAT??!!

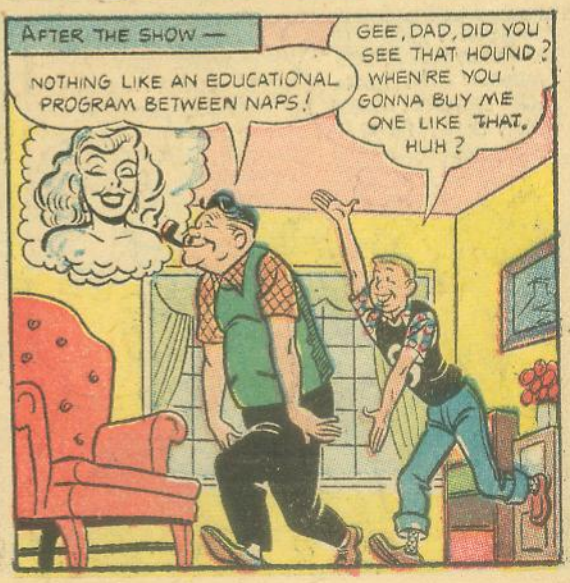

WHERE!
WHEN?
WHAT CHANNEL?
TURN THE SOUND DOWN— I WANNA CONCENTRATE!
WOOF! WOOF!


KURRRASH
GNNNG


THAT ONE'S MERTON! HE RECOVERS FASTER!


HOWLING HOT RODS! MERTON'S GOT A YEN FOR MARILYN BONROE! THAT MEANS HE HAS GIRLS ON HIS MIND AT LAST! THIS IS THE BIGGEST HUNK OF NEWS SINCE SINATRA GOT HOOKED!
RELAX, MARCIA. ONLY REASON MERTON'S MAD ABOUT THE MARILYN BONROE SHOW IS...

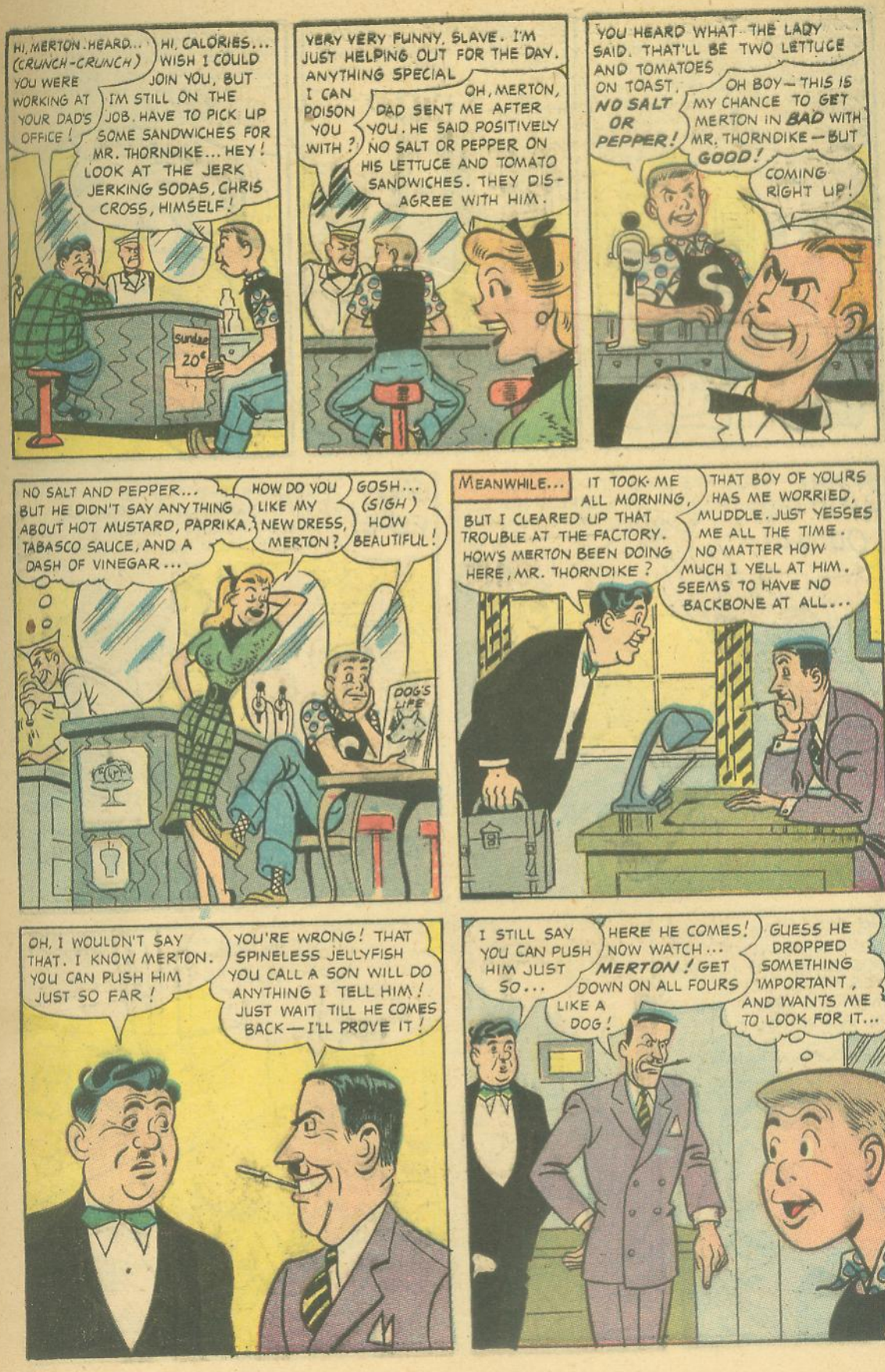

BECAUSE OF HER DOG! THEY'RE HIS LATEST CRAZE!
DID YOU EVER...(SIGH) SEE SUCH A HOUND?
I'M LOOKING AT ONE RIGHT NOW!

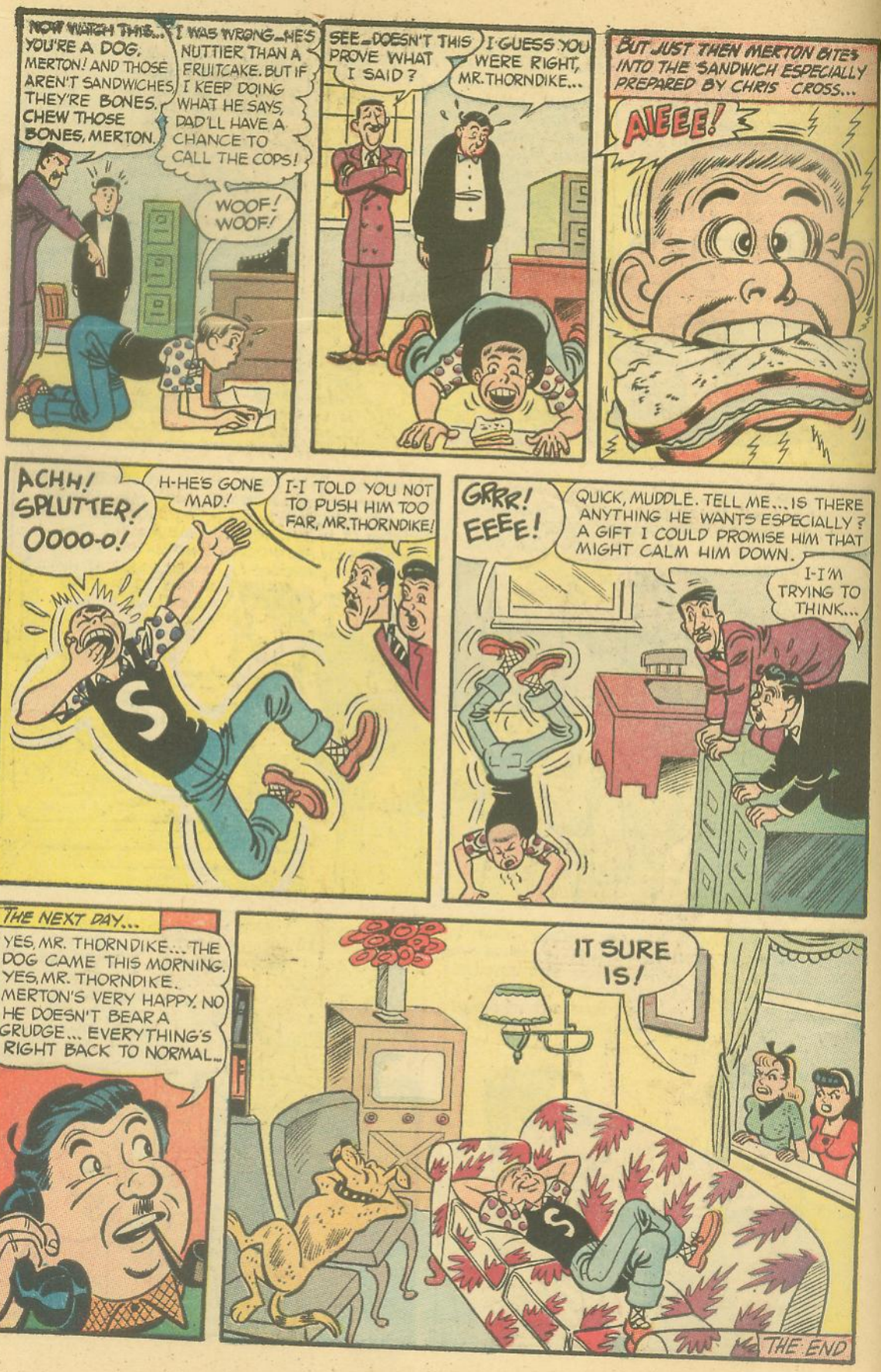

AFTER THE SHOW—
NOTHING LIKE AN EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM BETWEEN NAPS!
GEE, DAD, DID YOU SEE THAT HOUND? WHEN'RE YOU GONNA BUY ME ONE LIKE THAT. HUH?


SORRY, SON — I'M A HAPPILY MARRIED... WHAT?!
AREN'T YOU ASHAMED OF YOURSELF? A BIG STRAPPING BOY LIKE YOU HAVING TO ASK ME FOR MONEY TO BUY A DOG? WHY, WHEN I WAS YOUR AGE...
"...I DIDN'T GO IN TO BREAKFAST TILL I'D CHOPPED THE WOOD, MILKED THE COWS, RAKED THE LEAVES, MOWED THE LAWN...
BETTER CALL JUNIOR IN FOR BREAKFAST, DEAR... IT'LL BE HIS BED TIME SOON.
AND THEN AT THE END OF THE WEEK...
WHAT WITH TRANSPLANTIN' THE APPLE ORCHARD AN' BUILDIN' A NEW BARN, YOU PUT IN A GOOD WEEK'S WORK, SON. HERE'S YER ALLOWANCE!
GOSH, DAD... TWO WHOLE CENTS!
MMM... SEEMS LIKE I REALLY IMPRESSED MERTON WITH THAT LONG LECTURE! NOTICE HOW QUIET HE IS!
YES, DEAR, WE'RE VERY LUCKY...
...MERTON NEVER WAS A SNORER!


THE NEXT DAY...
WHAT'S THE MATTER, MUDDLE? YOU'VE BEEN GOING AROUND WITH A LONG FACE ALL MORNING. HAVING SOME TROUBLE AT HOME?
IT'S THAT SON OF MINE, MR. THORNDIKE, MERTON JUST DOESN'T SEEM TO HAVE ANY AMBITION. AND HE DOESN'T KNOW THE VALUE OF MONEY...
TELL YOU WHAT WE'LL DO... BRING HIM HERE. HE'LL WORK AS OUR OFFICE BOY. I WAS TOPKICK IN THE FIRST WORLD WAR, MUDDLE.. AND, BY GOLLY—I'LL MAKE A MAN OF MERTON... OR I'LL KNOW THE REASON WHY...
THAT'S A WONDERFUL IDEA, MR. THORNDIKE. I'LL HAVE HIM HERE BRIGHT AND EARLY TOMORROW MORNING.
TOMORROW MORNING...
GLAD TO SEE YOU HERE BRIGHT AND EARLY, YOUNG MAN...
...BUT THAT'S MY DESK!
NOW GET A MOVE ON... AND SNAP TO IT! I WANT THAT BARRACK... I MEAN OUTER OFFICE... SPARKLING SO BRIGHT THAT THE SUN'LL LOOK LIKE A RAIN CLOUD NEXT TO IT!!
YESSIR, YESSIR, YESSIR...
MR. BLODGETT IS ON THE PHONE, SIR.
HELLO, BLODGETT... YES... YES... DON'T WORRY, OLD MAN — YOU'LL GET THAT REPORT THIS MORNING. I HAVE THE WHOLE OFFICE STAFF WORKING ON IT. THEY HAVE STRICT INSTRUCTIONS TO WORK ON NOTHING ELSE!
PRIVATE
TWO HOURS LATER...
WHEW— TOOK LONGER THAN I EXPECTED, BUT AT LAST MY DESK'S CLEARED. NOW I'LL CHECK ON HOW THAT REPORT FOR MR. BLODGETT IS COMING
COMICS
COMICS
COMICS
CROSS WORD PUZZLE
CROSS WORD PUZZLES


WHAT'S GOING ON HERE?
IT—IT'S THAT NEW BOY, SIR! HE SAID IT WAS YOUR ORDERS—TH-THAT YOU WANTED THE OFFICE SPARKLING...
THEY KEPT YELLING ABOUT SOME CRUMMY REPORT, MR. THORNDIKE—BUT I MADE 'EM SNAP TO IT!
GET RIGHT BACK TO WORK ON THAT BLODGETT REPORT! AND YOU... GRRR... YOU GO FILL THAT WATER COOLER! THAT SHOULD KEEP YOU OUT OF THE WAY FOR A WHILE!
YESSIR, YESSIR, YESSIR...
HI, JO ANN—I'M ON MY WAY TO MY DAD'S OFFICE. MERTON'S WORKING THERE NOW, YOU KNOW... AND MY DAD'S GOING TO MAKE A MAN OUT OF HIM!
THIS I HAVE TO SEE WITH MY OWN EYES! O.K. IF I COME ALONG TOO?
AND ONCE MERTON'S A MAN—HE'LL HAVE WOMEN ON HIS MIND, AND THAT MEANS US!
SOMETHING TELLS ME...
AJAX WRECKING CO.
YOU'RE ALL WET!
KURP!
SPLISSH
GRRR—ARE YOU WORKING FOR ME OR FOR THEM? GET OUT OF HERE BEFORE THE BUILDING COLLAPSES...AND WHILE YOU'RE GOING, SEE IF YOU CAN REMEMBER TO PICK UP SOME SANDWICHES—I'LL HAVE TO WORK RIGHT THRU LUNCH HOUR ON THAT BLODGETT REPORT!!
AJAX WRECKING CO.
YESSIR, YESSIR, YESSIR...
DOESN'T MERTON LOOK HANDSOME ...(SIGH) STANDING AT ATTENTION, IN THE RAIN?


HI, MERTON. HEARD... (CRUNCH-CRUNCH) YOU WERE WORKING AT YOUR DAD'S OFFICE!
HI, CALORIES... WISH I COULD JOIN YOU, BUT I'M STILL ON THE JOB. HAVE TO PICK UP SOME SANDWICHES FOR MR. THORNDIKE... HEY! LOOK AT THE JERK JERKING SODAS, CHRIS CROSS, HIMSELF!
Sundae 20¢
VERY VERY FUNNY, SLAVE. I'M JUST HELPING OUT FOR THE DAY. ANYTHING SPECIAL I CAN POISON YOU WITH?
OH, MERTON, DAD SENT ME AFTER YOU. HE SAID POSITIVELY NO SALT OR PEPPER ON HIS LETTUCE AND TOMATO SANDWICHES. THEY DISAGREE WITH HIM.
YOU HEARD WHAT THE LADY SAID. THAT'LL BE TWO LETTUCE AND TOMATOES ON TOAST, NO SALT OR PEPPER!
OH BOY—THIS IS MY CHANCE TO GET MERTON IN BAD WITH MR. THORNDIKE—BUT GOOD!
COMING RIGHT UP!
NO SALT AND PEPPER... BUT HE DIDN'T SAY ANYTHING ABOUT HOT MUSTARD, PAPRIKA, TABASCO SAUCE, AND A DASH OF VINEGAR...
HOW DO YOU LIKE MY NEW DRESS, MERTON?
GOSH... (SIGH) HOW BEAUTIFUL!
DOG'S LIFE
MEANWHILE...
IT TOOK ME ALL MORNING, BUT I CLEARED UP THAT TROUBLE AT THE FACTORY. HOW'S MERTON BEEN DOING HERE, MR. THORNDIKE?
THAT BOY OF YOURS HAS ME WORRIED, MUDDLE. JUST YESSES ME ALL THE TIME. NO MATTER HOW MUCH I YELL AT HIM. SEEMS TO HAVE NO BACKBONE AT ALL...
OH, I WOULDN'T SAY THAT. I KNOW MERTON. YOU CAN PUSH HIM JUST SO FAR!
YOU'RE WRONG! THAT SPINELESS JELLYFISH YOU CALL A SON WILL DO ANYTHING I TELL HIM! JUST WAIT TILL HE COMES BACK—I'LL PROVE IT!
I STILL SAY YOU CAN PUSH HIM JUST SO...
HERE HE COMES! NOW WATCH... MERTON! GET DOWN ON ALL FOURS LIKE A DOG!
GUESS HE DROPPED SOMETHING IMPORTANT, AND WANTS ME TO LOOK FOR IT...


NOW WATCH THIS... YOU'RE A DOG, MERTON! AND THOSE AREN'T SANDWICHES, THEY'RE BONES. CHEW THOSE BONES, MERTON.
I WAS WRONG—HE'S NUTTIER THAN A FRUITCAKE. BUT IF I KEEP DOING WHAT HE SAYS, DAD'LL HAVE A CHANCE TO CALL THE COPS!
WOOF! WOOF!
SEE—DOESN'T THIS PROVE WHAT I SAID?
I GUESS YOU WERE RIGHT, MR. THORNDIKE...
BUT JUST THEN MERTON BITES INTO THE SANDWICH ESPECIALLY PREPARED BY CHRIS CROSS...
AIEEE!
ACHH! SPLUTTER! OOOO-O!
H-HE'S GONE MAD!
I-I TOLD YOU NOT TO PUSH HIM TOO FAR, MR. THORNDIKE!
GRRR! EEEE!
QUICK, MUDDLE. TELL ME... IS THERE ANYTHING HE WANTS ESPECIALLY? A GIFT I COULD PROMISE HIM THAT MIGHT CALM HIM DOWN.
I-I'M TRYING TO THINK...
THE NEXT DAY...
YES, MR. THORNDIKE... THE DOG CAME THIS MORNING. YES, MR. THORNDIKE. MERTON'S VERY HAPPY. NO HE DOESN'T BEAR A GRUDGE... EVERYTHING'S RIGHT BACK TO NORMAL...
IT SURE IS!
THE END

# ALL IN FUN

by MEL LAZARUS



"HELLO, MICHAEL. FIGURED THAT'S BEEN AGES SINCE I'VE SEEN YOU... AN' BEIN' THAT WE'RE SUCH GOOD PALS N' ALL, I'D JUST DROP AROUND AN' SEE THAT YOU'RE O.K., N' EVERYTHING. ...UNDERSTAND YOU JUST GOT SOME NEW ELECTRIC TRAINS...."




"MY NAME IS BENTON J. LUPU AND MY FATHER IS JOSEPH C. LUPU. HE'S VICE-PRESIDENT OF THE JOHNSON CONSTRUCTION CO. AND EARNS $12,250 PER YEAR. I'D LIKE TO OPEN A CHARGE ACCOUNT..."




"SORRY. FOR A MINUTE I THOUGHT YOU WERE MY MOTHER..."

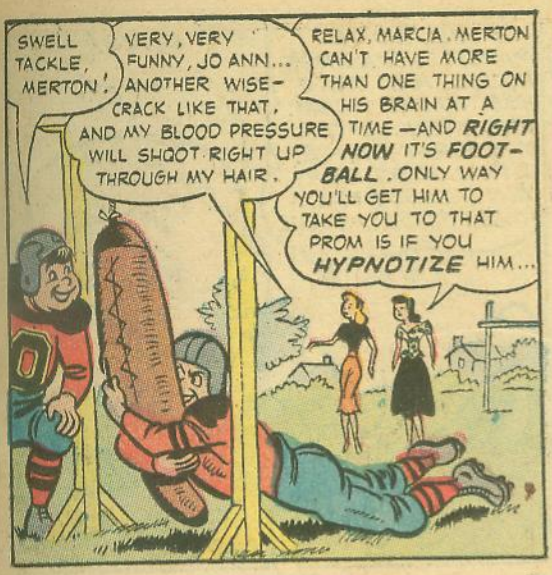



"CONGRATULATIONS, SIR! YOU'VE JUST WON $1,000.00 AND A CARTON OF SPUTTER CIGARETTES!"




"MORNING, MADAM. MAY I HAVE A DRINK OF WATER?"

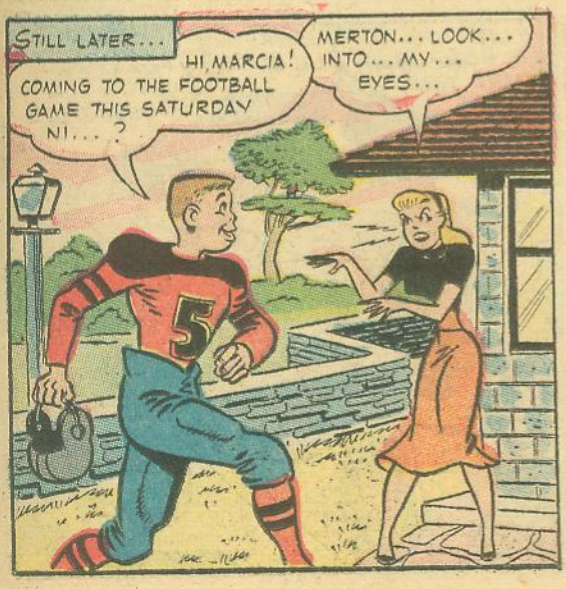

MERTON
The Eyes Have It!
LOOK AT THEM WHISPERING TOGETHER — AND THEY CALL US GIRLS GOSSIPS!
WHAT'S BEEN NIBBLING AT YOU LATELY, MARCIA...?
FOOTBALL — THAT'S WHAT'S BEEN NIBBLING AT ME! THE PROM IS THIS SATURDAY...BUT THE ONLY THING MERTON EVER THINKS OF DANCING WITH IS A BLOWN-UP PIGSKIN!
MMM — LOOK AT THAT! JEEPERS, THAT MERTON SURE CAN HUG WHEN HE PUTS HIS MIND TO IT!
HUG?!! WHO'S HE HUGGING? LEMME AT HER! GRRR — I'LL TEAR THE HUSSY LIMB FROM LIMB!


SWELL TACKLE, MERTON!
VERY, VERY FUNNY, JO ANN... ANOTHER WISE-CRACK LIKE THAT, AND MY BLOOD PRESSURE WILL SHOOT RIGHT UP THROUGH MY HAIR.
RELAX, MARCIA. MERTON CAN'T HAVE MORE THAN ONE THING ON HIS BRAIN AT A TIME—AND RIGHT NOW IT'S FOOTBALL. ONLY WAY YOU'LL GET HIM TO TAKE YOU TO THAT PROM IS IF YOU HYPNOTIZE HIM...


I WOULDN'T GO NOW IF HE BEGGED ME!
HEY—HYPNOTISM!! THERE'S A BOOK DAD HAS IN HIS LIBRARY...


TA-TA! BE SEEING YOU...
SOMETHING TELLS ME THAT STRANGE THINGS ARE GOING TO HAPPEN...


LATER—
MEOWW!
WOOF! WOOF!
IT WORKS! IT WORKS! MERTON MUDDLE—HERE I COME!
OCULAR HYPNOTISM


STILL LATER...
HI, MARCIA! COMING TO THE FOOTBALL GAME THIS SATURDAY NI...?
MERTON... LOOK... INTO... MY... EYES...

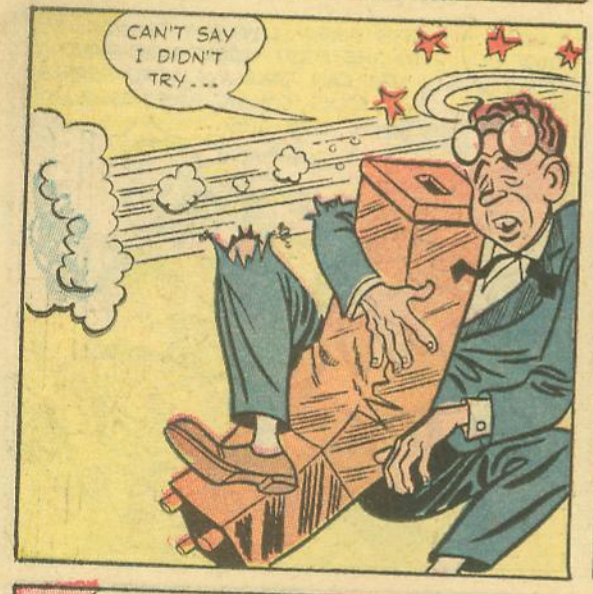

WHATSAMATTER, MARCIA—YOU GOT A SPECK OF DUST OR SOMETHING IN THEM?


GEE...(GULP)...ALL OF A SUDDEN I... FEEL SO SLEEPY...
KEEP LOOKING...INTO... MY EYES...AND MERTON ...REPEAT THESE WORDS ...AFTER ME! NO MATTER WHAT I, MERTON MUDDLE, AM DOING AT 9:00 O'CLOCK SATURDAY NIGHT...
...I WILL GO TO MARCIA THORNDIKE'S HOUSE, AND TAKE HER TO THE PROM. AND THEN...AFTER THE FIRST DANCE, I WILL KISS HER TEN TIMES! REPEAT THOSE WORDS...MERTON...
DITTO!
WH-WHAT HAPPENED...? FOR A SECOND THERE I THOUGHT I WAS BLACKING OUT!
DIDN'T NOTICE A THING, MERTON DARLING. TA-TA—BE SEEING YOU.
SNAP
SATURDAY NIGHT COMES! IT IS 8:52 P.M. AND AS MARCIA CAREFULLY APPLIES SOME OF HER MOTHER'S BEAUTY MUD...
MUD
MERTON IS GETTING THE SAME TREATMENT ON THE GRIDIRON!
EXACTLY EIGHT MINUTES LATER...
SWELL CATCH, MERTON! KEEP RUNNING—THERE'S A CLEAR FIELD BETWEEN YOU AND THE GOAL-LINE!
NINE O'CLOCK... HAVETA DO SOMETHING AT NINE O'CLOCK...HAVETA GO TO MARCIA'S HOUSE...
BONG BONG
HEY, MERTON... THE GOAL-LINE'S THAT WAY!
WHERE'S HE GOING?
AFTER HIM, FELLERS— THAT'S OUR ONLY BALL!


MEANWHILE—
SURE IS, POPSY. OH—OH—THERE'S THE BELL. WANT TO LET HIM IN, PLEASE?
GOLLY, BABE, I'VE NEVER SEEN YOU TAKE SUCH PAINS BEFORE—THIS MUST BE A REAL BIG DATE YOU'RE GOING ON TONIGHT!
THESE KIDS! I GET A REAL BANG SEEING HOW THEY GET ALL DRESSED UP FOR THEIR DATES!
GET YOUR FINGER OFF THE BELL, SON—I'M COMING...
HEY!
MARCIA ...WHERE'S MARCIA?.. HAVETA ...TAKE HER...TO... THE ...PROM...
MERTON... I'M NOT DRESSED! EEE! STOP! STOP!
PROM ...HAVETA... GO... TO... PROM...
DADDY, STOP HIM!
YES SIREE, I WAS A TOPKICK IN THE FIRST WORLD WAR—AND YOU CAN TAKE MY WORD FOR IT, FOLKS, COMBAT WAS NEVER LIKE THIS...
MAN ON THE CORNER SAID HE RAN IN THERE! EVERYBODY RUSH IN TOGETHER—HE MAY BE VIOLENT!
POOR MERTON—HE MUST'VE GOT A CONCUSSION OR SOMETHING ON THE LAST SCRIMMAGE!
SIT ON HIS HEAD!
DON'T GIVE HIM A CHANCE TO GET UP!
WHERE'S THE LIGHT SWITCH?
4


IT—IT'S MR. THORNDIKE!
WOW! WE BETTER TIP-TOE OUT BEFORE HE COMES TO!
WHERE COULD MERTON'VE GONE?
WE GOTTA GET THAT BALL—IT'S OUR ONLY BALL!
CLICK


MERTON, PLEASE LISTEN TO ME! THIS...(SOB)... IS ALL A TERRIBLE MISTAKE!
PROM...HAVETA ...TAKE...YOU... TO...PROM...
TICKETS, PL— HEY! YOU TWO CAN'T GO IN THERE DRESSED THAT WAY!
PROM


CAN'T SAY I DIDN'T TRY...


MERTON MUDDLE! WHAT'S THE MEANING OF THIS?
HAVETA... DANCE... WITH... MARCIA...
GET BACK! HE DOESN'T KNOW WHAT HE'S DOING! HE MAY HURT SOMEBODY!


OWWW! YOU CAN SAY THAT AGAIN!


MUSIC'S...STOPPED... HAVETA...KISS... MARCIA...TEN... TIMES...NOW...
JEEPERS! I FORGOT ALL ABOUT THAT!


TEN KISSES FROM MERTON MUDDLE! THEY'LL MORE THAN MAKE UP FOR EVERYTHING THAT'S HAPPENED TO ME TONIGHT!


YOU'RE COVERED WITH MUD AND YOU'RE GOONIER THAN A GORILLA, BUT YOU'RE MINE, ALL MINE— AND I'M NUTS ABOUT YOU!
TEN... TIMES... HAVETA... KISS YOU... TEN TIMES...

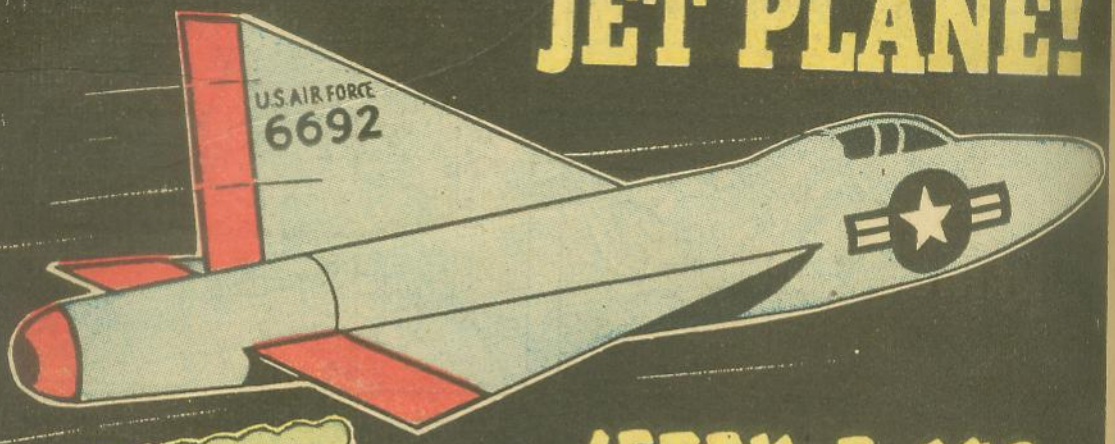

AIEEE!
CLICK


SORRY, FOLKS, IF WE HADN'T TURNED THE LIGHTS OFF, HE MIGHT'VE SPOTTED US!
WH-WHAT HAPPENED?
WE WERE JUST THROWN FOR A THREE-AND-A-HALF MILE LOSS— THAT'S WHAT HAPPENED!
5
0


WOW— WHAT A MAN! ALL HE HAD TO DO WAS PUCKER UP, AND THE CEILING CAME DOWN ON MY HEAD! LEMME AT HIM!
G-GOSH, WHAT'D I DO TO HER?
5


I DON'T KNOW WHAT THIS IS ALL ABOUT... BUT SOMETHING TELLS ME YOU BETTER START RUNNING AGAIN!

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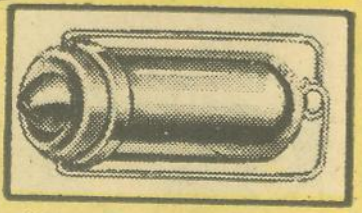
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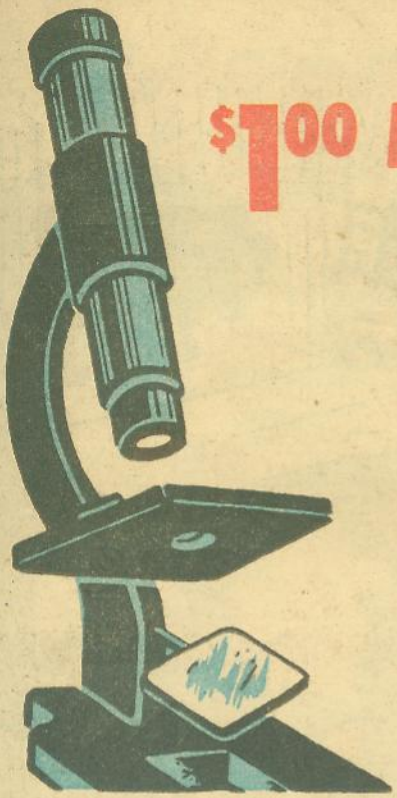
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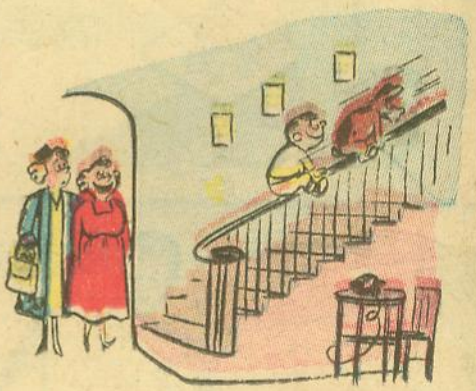
# THE ANIMAL ACT




"HOW DO THEY GET THEM ON A NICKLE?"

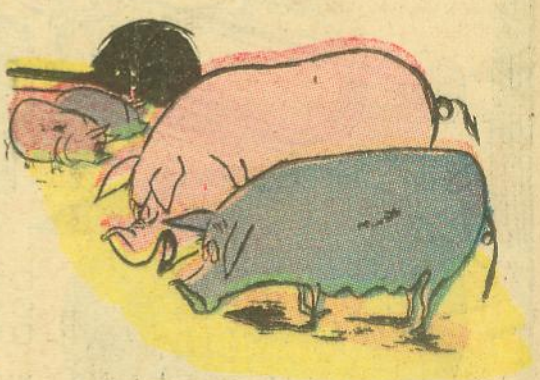






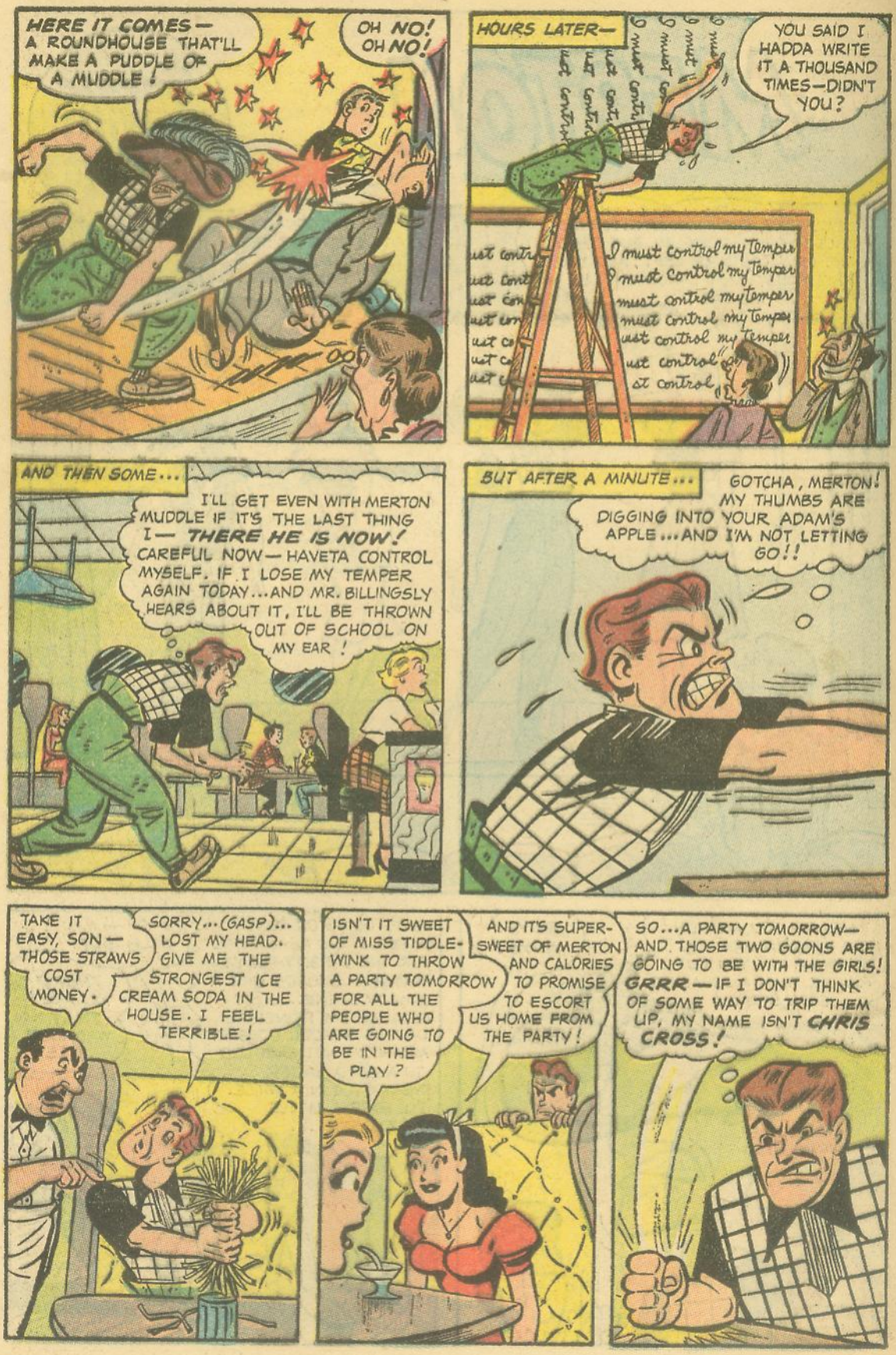
"THEY'RE INSEPARABLE! WHERE HE GOES THE DOG GOES."

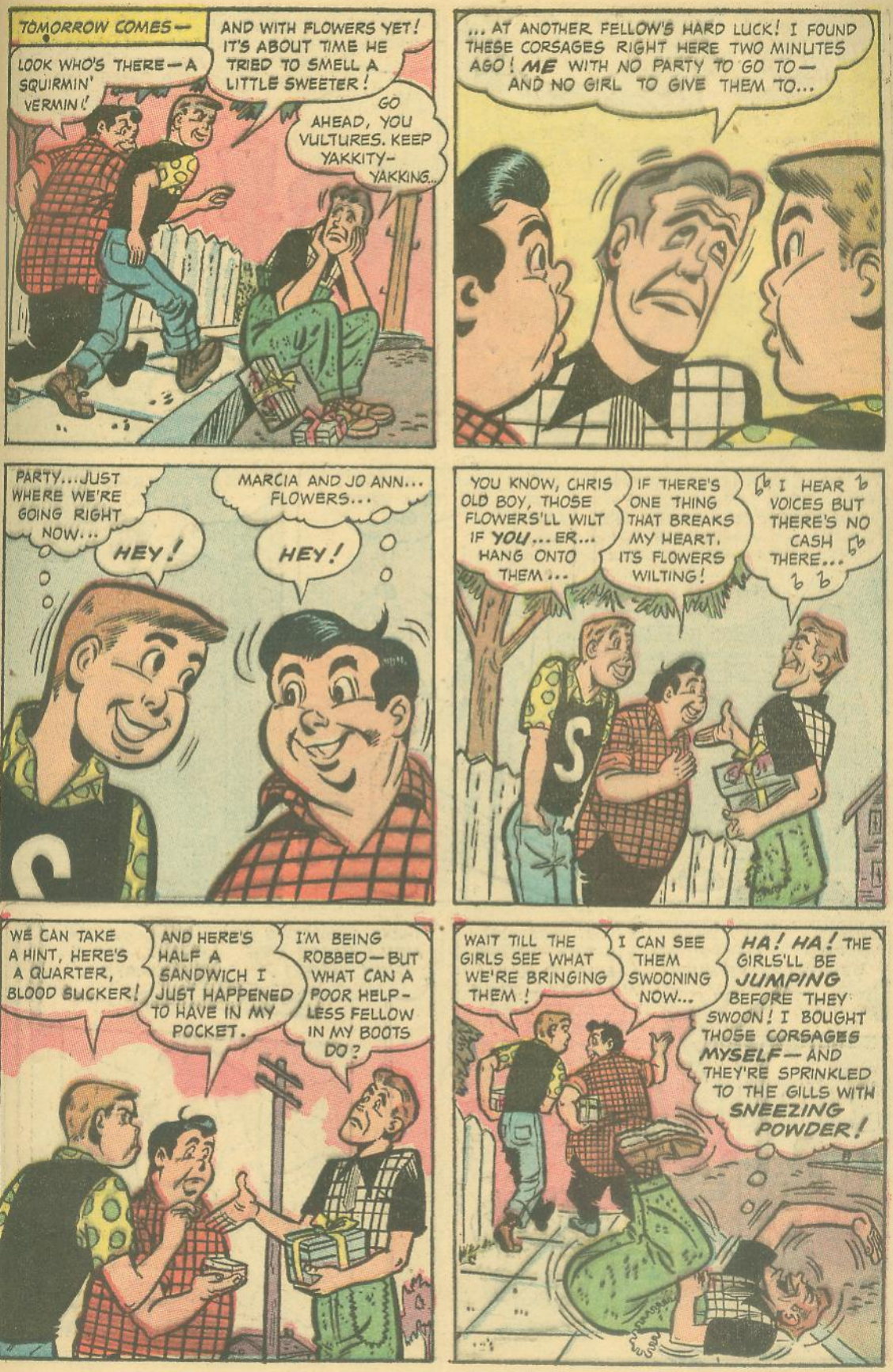


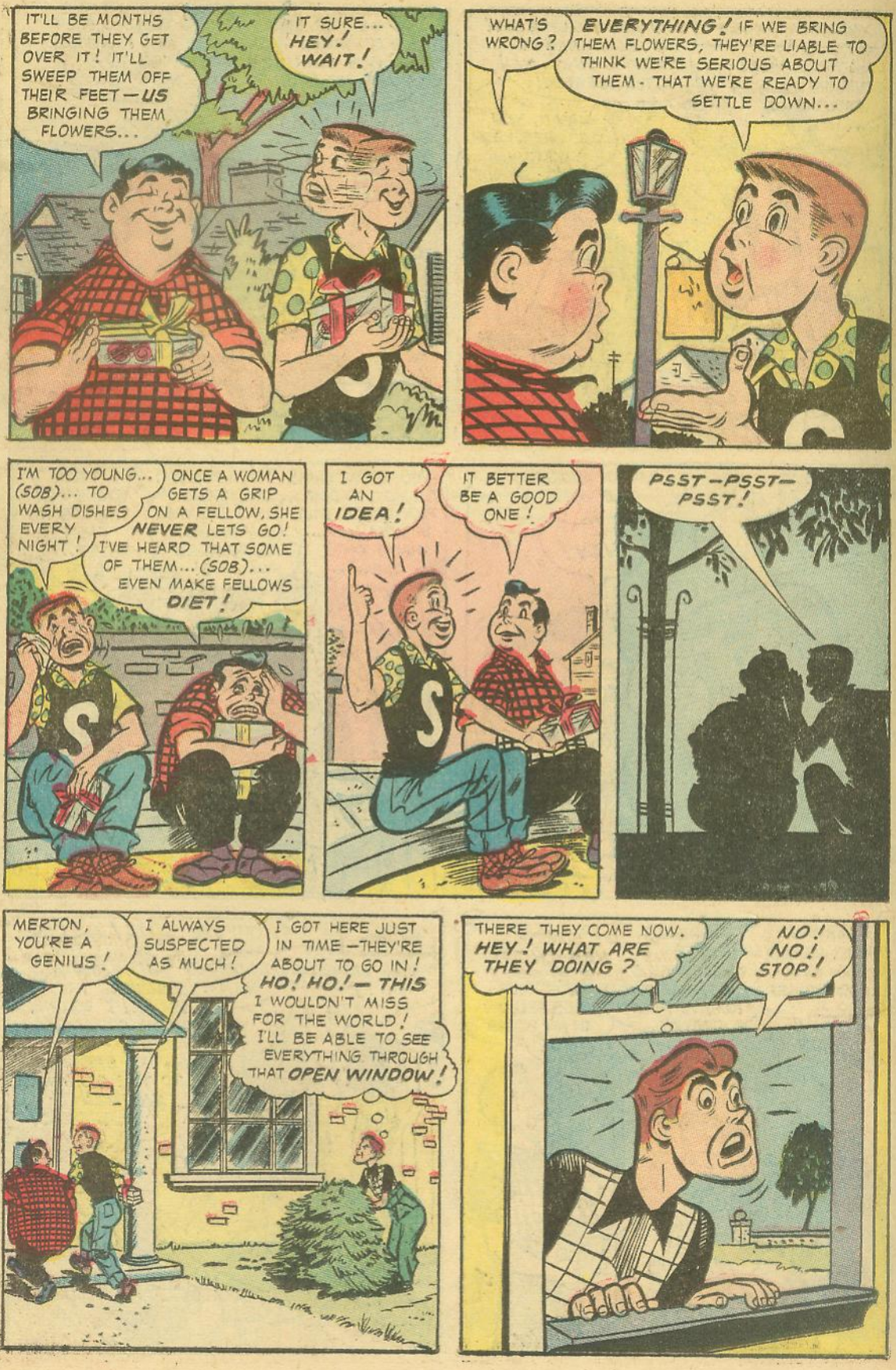


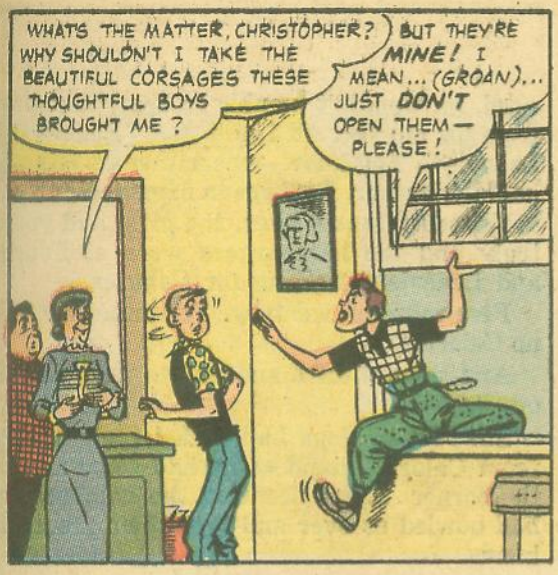
"YOU'RE GETTING SO TRIM AND SYLPH-LIKE I'M ASHAMED TO BE SEEN WITH YOU!"


MERTON
Sneeze It With Flowers
I'M SORRY, CHRISTOPHER... I'D LIKE TO USE YOU IN THE PLAY, BUT THAT'S THE ONLY COSTUME LEFT, AND YOUR HEAD JUST ISN'T LARGE ENOUGH FOR THE HAT!
PERSONALLY, I'VE NEVER SEEN CHRIS LOOK HANDSOMER...
I HEARD YOU, MERTON! NOW WHERE ARE YOU? I'M GONNA LAY YOU OUT FLATTER THAN A SQUASHED SODA STRAW!
BOYS! BOYS!
WHAT'S GOING ON HERE? OH YES... THE REHEARSAL FOR THE VARSITY PLAY! MMM — SOUNDS LIKE A COMEDY SCENE... JUST BECAUSE I'M PRINCIPAL OF THIS SCHOOL DOESN'T MEAN I'M NOT ENTITLED TO A GOOD LAUGH EVERY ONCE IN A WHILE. I'LL STEP A LITTLE CLOSER...
OH-OH — MR. BILLINGSLY!
THERE YOU ARE! THAT WAS YOUR VOICE!


HERE IT COMES— A ROUNDHOUSE THAT'LL MAKE A PUDDLE OF A MUDDLE!
OH NO! OH NO!
HOURS LATER—
YOU SAID I HADDA WRITE IT A THOUSAND TIMES—DIDN'T YOU?
I must control my temper
AND THEN SOME...
I'LL GET EVEN WITH MERTON MUDDLE IF IT'S THE LAST THING I— THERE HE IS NOW! CAREFUL NOW— HAVETA CONTROL MYSELF. IF I LOSE MY TEMPER AGAIN TODAY...AND MR. BILLINGSLY HEARS ABOUT IT, I'LL BE THROWN OUT OF SCHOOL ON MY EAR!
BUT AFTER A MINUTE...
GOTCHA, MERTON! MY THUMBS ARE DIGGING INTO YOUR ADAM'S APPLE...AND I'M NOT LETTING GO!!
TAKE IT EASY, SON— THOSE STRAWS COST MONEY.
SORRY...(GASP)... LOST MY HEAD. GIVE ME THE STRONGEST ICE CREAM SODA IN THE HOUSE. I FEEL TERRIBLE!
ISN'T IT SWEET OF MISS TIDDLE-WINK TO THROW A PARTY TOMORROW FOR ALL THE PEOPLE WHO ARE GOING TO BE IN THE PLAY?
AND IT'S SUPER-SWEET OF MERTON AND CALORIES TO PROMISE TO ESCORT US HOME FROM THE PARTY!
SO...A PARTY TOMORROW— AND THOSE TWO GOONS ARE GOING TO BE WITH THE GIRLS! GRRR— IF I DON'T THINK OF SOME WAY TO TRIP THEM UP, MY NAME ISN'T CHRIS CROSS!


TOMORROW COMES—
LOOK WHO'S THERE—A SQUIRMIN' VERMIN!
AND WITH FLOWERS YET! IT'S ABOUT TIME HE TRIED TO SMELL A LITTLE SWEETER!
GO AHEAD, YOU VULTURES. KEEP YAKKITY-YAKKING...
... AT ANOTHER FELLOW'S HARD LUCK! I FOUND THESE CORSAGES RIGHT HERE TWO MINUTES AGO! ME WITH NO PARTY TO GO TO— AND NO GIRL TO GIVE THEM TO...
PARTY... JUST WHERE WE'RE GOING RIGHT NOW...
HEY!
MARCIA AND JO ANN... FLOWERS...
HEY!
YOU KNOW, CHRIS OLD BOY, THOSE FLOWERS'LL WILT IF YOU... ER... HANG ONTO THEM...
IF THERE'S ONE THING THAT BREAKS MY HEART. IT'S FLOWERS WILTING!
I HEAR VOICES BUT THERE'S NO CASH THERE...
WE CAN TAKE A HINT, HERE'S A QUARTER, BLOOD SUCKER!
AND HERE'S HALF A SANDWICH I JUST HAPPENED TO HAVE IN MY POCKET.
I'M BEING ROBBED—BUT WHAT CAN A POOR HELPLESS FELLOW IN MY BOOTS DO?
WAIT TILL THE GIRLS SEE WHAT WE'RE BRINGING THEM!
I CAN SEE THEM SWOONING NOW...
HA! HA! THE GIRLS'LL BE JUMPING BEFORE THEY SWOON! I BOUGHT THOSE CORSAGES MYSELF—AND THEY'RE SPRINKLED TO THE GILLS WITH SNEEZING POWDER!

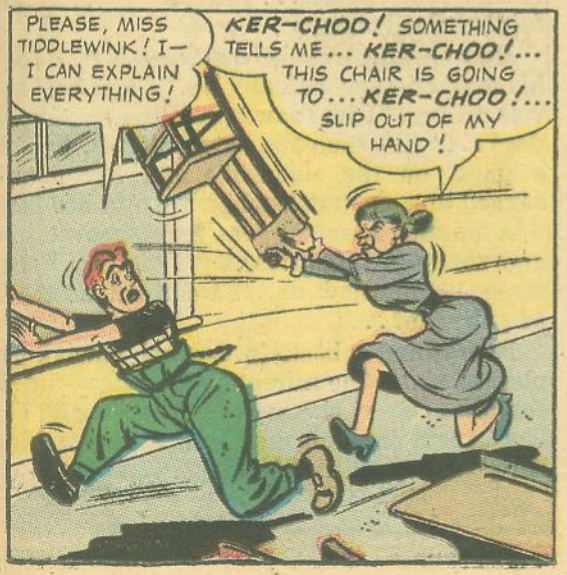

IT'LL BE MONTHS BEFORE THEY GET OVER IT! IT'LL SWEEP THEM OFF THEIR FEET—US BRINGING THEM FLOWERS...
IT SURE... HEY! WAIT!
WHAT'S WRONG?
EVERYTHING! IF WE BRING THEM FLOWERS, THEY'RE LIABLE TO THINK WE'RE SERIOUS ABOUT THEM - THAT WE'RE READY TO SETTLE DOWN...
I'M TOO YOUNG... (SOB)... TO WASH DISHES EVERY NIGHT!
ONCE A WOMAN GETS A GRIP ON A FELLOW, SHE NEVER LETS GO! I'VE HEARD THAT SOME OF THEM... (SOB)... EVEN MAKE FELLOWS DIET!
I GOT AN IDEA!
IT BETTER BE A GOOD ONE!
PSST—PSST—PSST!
MERTON, YOU'RE A GENIUS!
I ALWAYS SUSPECTED AS MUCH!
I GOT HERE JUST IN TIME—THEY'RE ABOUT TO GO IN! HO! HO!—THIS I WOULDN'T MISS FOR THE WORLD! I'LL BE ABLE TO SEE EVERYTHING THROUGH THAT OPEN WINDOW!
THERE THEY COME NOW. HEY! WHAT ARE THEY DOING?
NO! NO! STOP!

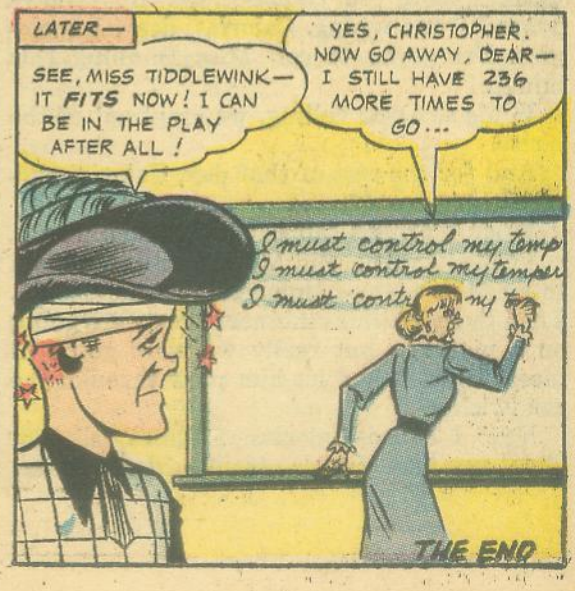

WHAT'S THE MATTER, CHRISTOPHER? WHY SHOULDN'T I TAKE THE BEAUTIFUL CORSAGES THESE THOUGHTFUL BOYS BROUGHT ME?
BUT THEY'RE MINE! I MEAN... (GROAN)... JUST DON'T OPEN THEM— PLEASE!


THEY'RE YOURS? OH CHRISTOPHER... HOW SWEET! THAT MEANS YOU'RE TRULY SORRY FOR THE WAY YOU BEHAVED YESTERDAY!
THE RAT— AFTER SELLING THEM TO US!


CHRISTOPHER, YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT THIS... WHAT THIS... WHAT THIS...
SNIFF
SNIFF


KER-CHOO!


PLEASE, MISS TIDDLEWINK! I— I CAN EXPLAIN EVERYTHING!
KER-CHOO! SOMETHING TELLS ME... KER-CHOO!... THIS CHAIR IS GOING TO... KER-CHOO!... SLIP OUT OF MY HAND!


LATER—
SEE, MISS TIDDLEWINK— IT FITS NOW! I CAN BE IN THE PLAY AFTER ALL!
YES, CHRISTOPHER. NOW GO AWAY, DEAR— I STILL HAVE 236 MORE TIMES TO GO...
I must control my temp
I must control my temper
I must contr my te
THE END

all about food. That way, maybe Calories would live till the next meal.

We did just that. We biked out of town, and kept going till there was nothing beside the road but pasture land. Then lay down in the grass, looked up at the sky, and began concentrating . . .

"Oh no . . . !" groaned Calories. "NO!!"

Up there in the blue, a plane was sky-writing: EAT HAMMONDS HAMBURGERS . . .

After Calories had stopped beating his head against the ground, I said, "There's no escaping food. We gotta take direct action. Let's ride back to your house, and on the way I'll tell you what we're gonna do . . ."

The plan was fool-proof. The second we got into Calories' house, he threw himself on the floor and began moaning. He rolled there and kicked his legs. He made enough noise so his mother would have to hear and come running.

I couldn't help grinning. I was sure that when she saw how her son was suffering, she'd break down and begin shovelling food into him.

Just as I planned, she came running in.

I leaned forward, waiting for her face to twitch with fright.

But she smiled. She clasped her hands with joy. "Wonderful!" she said. "Wonderful!"

Calories was as shocked as I was. He stopped rolling, and stared up at his mother.

"Wonderful!" she said for the third time. "You must've heard me talk to Mrs. Dunning, the dramatics teacher, this morning. She said she wanted you to play the part of the wounded soldier in the varsity play—and to think I said you couldn't act. But you've proved I was wrong, Calories, dear. I apologize. I'm going to call Miss Dunning this minute!"

While she was calling, we crept out of the house.

And for the rest of that day, Calories suffered thru his diet . . .

When morning came, I had a new plan.

I called Jo Ann and Marcia, and told them to make as many hamburgers as they could. I had them tell their mothers they were going on a picnic . . . but really we were going to meet Calories, and let him plow through the sandwiches.

Next I called Calories. I didn't tell him about my plan. I was afraid he'd get so excited, he wouldn't be able to keep the secret from his mother. All I said was, "Fourth and Lakeview. You know—where they're going to hold the bazaar. Be there in fifteen minutes..."

Fifteen minutes later, the girls and yours truly and the hamburgers were at Fourth and Lakeview, waiting for Calories.

Five minutes went by. Ten minutes. Still no Calories . . .

And then all of a sudden we were flat on our backs!

Six yelping dogs had pulled their leashes from Calories' hand as he had come around the corner . . . and scenting the hamburgers, had bowled us over and torn them from our hands.

They were wolfing them down now as if they hadn't eaten since the day they were born—and all poor Calories could do was watch them with tears streaming down his cheeks.

"Calories," I gasped, "what were you doing with those hounds?"

"I was walking them for the neighbors," he moaned. "I figured to make money that way so I could buy myself some hamburgers . . ."

Just then Calories looked up and saw his reflection in a big mirror that two men were carrying toward the tent where they were going to hold the bazaar.

It was a DISTORTING MIRROR, but poor Calories didn't know that. He saw himself thin as a soda straw, and thought he'd wasted away to a sixteenth of his normal size in twenty-four hours . . . and he gasped and fainted dead away.

He was still stretched out when Mrs. Casey, his mother, came running up. "Calories," she was calling, "I just saw one of the neighbor's dogs . . ." But then she saw Calories, pale as a ghost on the sidewalk; and her mouth sagged and she put her hands up to her face.

A minute later she was leaning over him and sobbing, "Calories, my Calories, I was wrong. From now on, you can eat as much as you want . . ."

Everything's back to normal now. I explained about the mirror to Calories—and as for Mrs. Casey, she says that as long as she lives, she'll never forgive herself for starving her poor boy till he fainted . . .

# THE DANGEROUS DIET OF CALORIES CASEY

## by MERTON MUDDLE

"Merton . . . I-I'll die if she makes me go thru with it!" sobbed Calories. And he plumped himself down onto the porch steps, and sat there looking as hungry and hopeless as a cannibal all alone on a desert isle.

I tried to sound cheerful. "She must be joking," I said. "Let's look at the calendar. Maybe it's April Fool's Day."

Calories slowly shook his head. "My mother's not joking," he said. "She put me on the diet already. From now on only three meals a day. And nothing in between. Never. And no spending money till I've lost ten pounds."

I had to look away. Such misery was more than a close friend could watch.

"Your strength," I whispered sadly, "you'll lose all your strength . . ."

"And a feller like me needs strength," quavered Calories. "Sometimes when I'm eating hamburgers, the ketchup sticks in the bottle, and I have to bang the bottle good and hard..."

"That's right," I said, "and there are times you have to lift one of those thick triple-decker sandwiches . . ."

"And what about when a refrigerator door gets stuck?" asked Calories. "A feller needs lots of strength to . . ."

But I didn't let Calories finish . . . the words REFRIGERATOR DOOR had rung a bell inside my head . . . Of course! Why hadn't I thought of it till now? We could raid MY refrigerator. Casey could get his snacks at MY house, and his mother would never know!

Two seconds later, the refrigerator door was open, I pulling out food fast as I could, and Calories was standing behind me, his mouth watering faster than a gushing faucet.

"MERTON, PUT THAT FOOD BACK!!"

We both spun around to see my mother standing in the doorway. Her mouth was set in a thin firm line.

"But mom," I said, "me and Calories just want a little snack. "You've never stopped us before."

Mom's mouth softened as she looked at Calories. "I'm sorry," she said, "but Mrs. Casey phoned me this morning. She made me promise not to let Calories eat anything over here."

I couldn't budge mom. I told her Calories was on the point of death—and all she said was that she was on the point of losing her temper. After that, there was nothing left for us to do but leave the house . . .

Calories' feet kept dragging on the sidewalk. He was getting paler and paler. He dodn't say anything, but I knew how he was suffering inside.

I patted his shoulder. "Keep a stiff upper chin, old man. I'll get you some food."

A tear slowly trickled down his round soft cheek. "B-but where?"

That was a tough question. I didn't have a cent in my jeans. I looked around hopelessly. All of a sudden my eyes lit up. Right across the street was the PERKINS EATERY. Me and Calories had been regular customers there for years now—and Pop Perkins never refused credit to one of his regulars.

Calories staggered after me thru the EATERY door.

"Pop," I said, "Calories is starving. He hasn't had food in his mouth for forty-five minutes. He'll gladly pay you next week for whatever you give him today."

But Pop shook his bald bony head. "Sorry," he said. "Can't do it."

"But Pop, you never turned us down before!"

Pop put down the glass he'd been wiping and leaned over the counter. "Mrs. Casey was in this morning," he whispered. "She made me promise not to sell anything to Calories. Matter of fact, she said she'd give me five dollars a week just to make up for what I'll lose in his trade . . . !"

And there was no budging Pop either.

So we decided to bike out to the country. There we'd lie in the fields and look up at the blank sky, and concentrate on forgetting

# THE PARTY

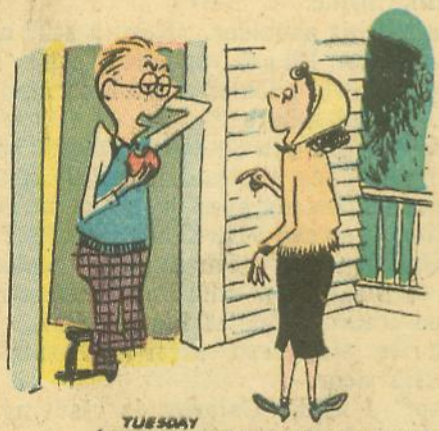


**MONDAY**
"...AND SO, IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED THAT WE THE SIX MEMBERS OF HARMONY SOCIAL CLUB WILL GIVE A PARTY ON SATURDAY NIGHT WHEREAS WE WILL ALSO..."



**WEDNESDAY**
"YOU MEAN TO SAY TH' SIX GIRLS OF HARMONY S.C ARE GIVIN' A PARTY FOR THE FIVE GUYS OF MY CLUB, THE CAVALIERS A.C.? SURE WE'LL COME!"

"THANK YOU, ARTHUR. SATURDAY NIGHT AT 8 O'CLOCK."



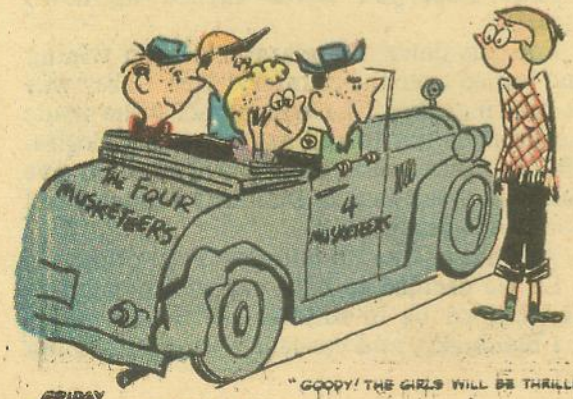
**TUESDAY**
"THE HARMONY SOCIAL CLUB CORDIALLY INVITES THE MAIN STREET BOYS TO A PARTY ON SATURDAY NIGHT."

"(SIX OF THEM, ONLY FOUR OF US!) O.K! ON BEHALF OF MY CLUB I ACCEPT!"



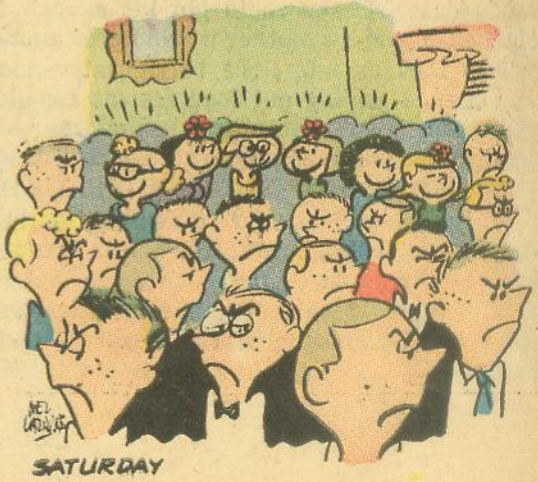

**THURSDAY**
"OUR CLUB, HARMONY A.C. IS GIVING A PARTY ON SATURDAY, FOR YOUR CLUB, ATOMIC A.C.!"

"SWELL!" "PSSST, FRED! THERE'S SIX OF THEM AN' ONLY FIVE GUYS IN OUR CLUB!




"GOODY! THE GIRLS WILL BE THRILLED!"

**FRIDAY**
"YOU BET WE'LL COME TO YOUR PARTY, GWENDOLYN. WE LIKE THE ODDS, FRANKLY."



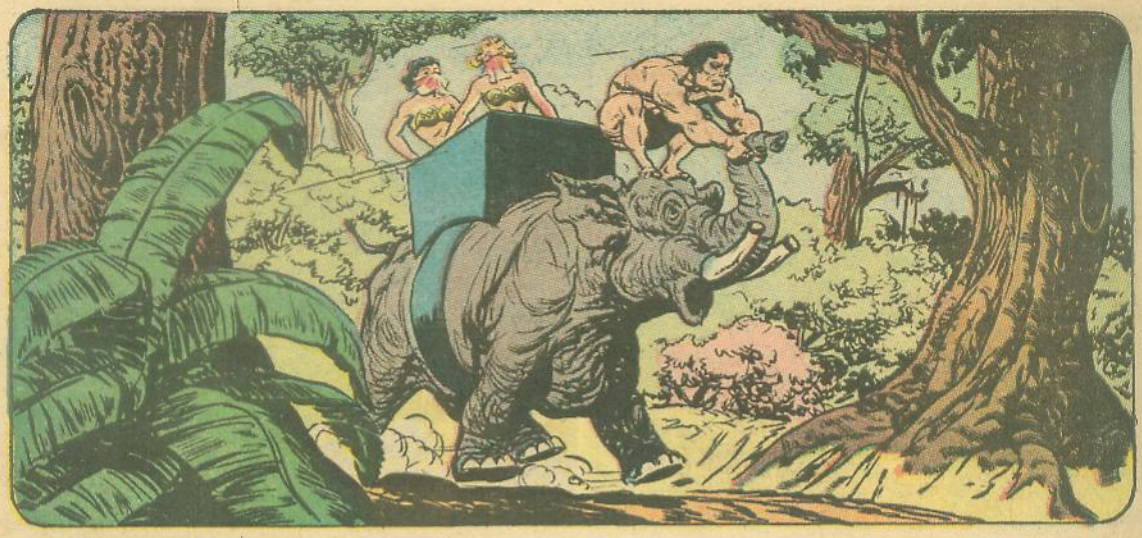
**SATURDAY**

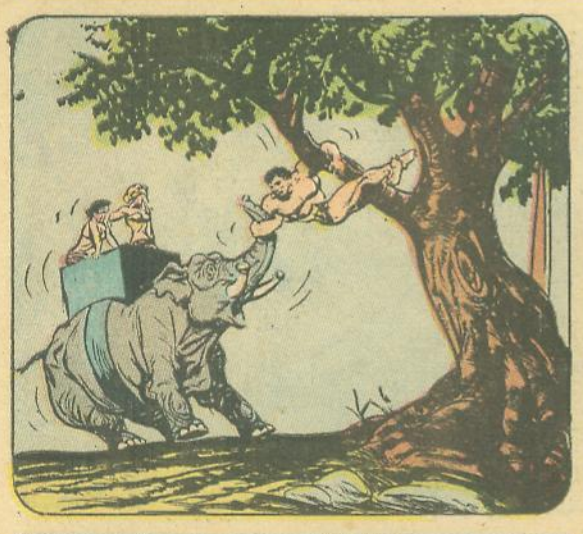
# PEGGY DEAN and MATURE HAM



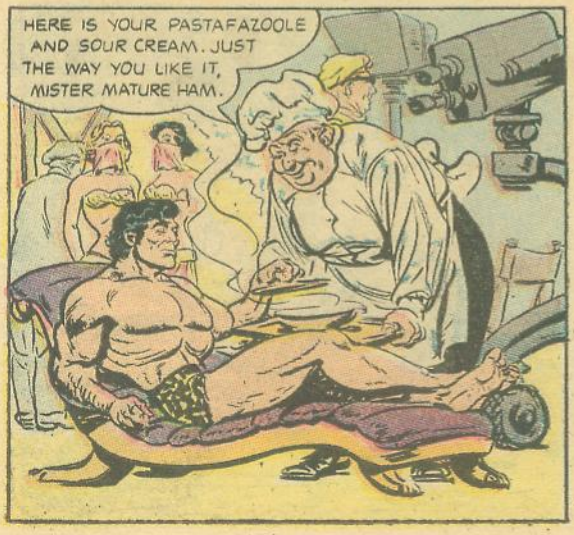

THE NEXT MORNING ON THE MOVIE SET...
QUIET, EVERYONE! MR. MATURE HAM IS COMING ON SET!
ALL RIGHT, GIRLS, TAKE YOUR PLACES.
ROLL 'EM!
I'M SO EXCITED I COULD FAINT!
THAT WILL DO YOU NO GOOD!
THANK YOU FOR SAVING OUR LIVES!
GO AVAY— I VISH TO BE ALONE!


HELP!



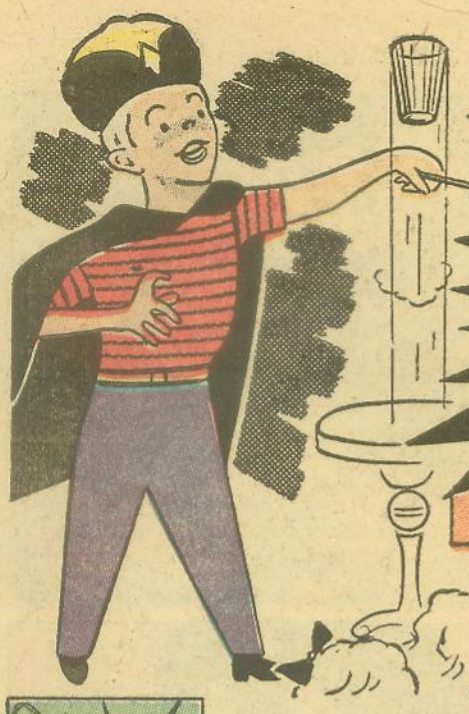



CUT!
MAGNIFICENT! MR. MATURE HAM!
TERRIFIC, MR. MATURE HAM!


HERE IS YOUR PASTAFAZOOLE AND SOUR CREAM. JUST THE WAY YOU LIKE IT, MISTER MATURE HAM.


DID YOU EVER SEE ANYONE SO STRONG AND FEARLESS!
I DON'T KNOW HOW I'LL EVER BE ABLE TO LOOK AT ANOTHER MAN. HE'S SIMPLY SPOILED EVERYONE ELSE FOR ME!


HE'S SO COURAGEOUS!
HE'S NOT AFRAID OF A THING!
AH! MY MAGNIFICENT 'AIRO! MY MANS!
CHIQUITA! YOU FINALLY GOT OUT OF THE REFRIGERATOR. YOU MAY KISS ME!
YIPE!
TAKE THAT FEROCIOUS BEAST OUT OF HERE!
?
?



# COMPLETE BAFFLING MAGIC OUTFIT

## 20 First Class Illusions

BE A MAGICIAN—FOOL AND DELIGHT THEM WITH A FULL 2 HOUR MYSTERY SHOW

Only $1



ROPE TRICK—Cut it in half, yet it is still in one piece and other surprises—yours only with this offer.



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MAGIC MIRROR—Spectators will be amazed. With it you read cards, without even looking at them.



FLYING QUARTER—Here's one you can do over and over again and make all the guessers look foolish.

Now the top secrets of 20 professional magic tricks are yours to entertain and amaze your friends and make you popular. With this outfit you get 20 exclusive tricks and the secret knowledge of how to easily perform them all for only $1.00.

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Imagine, by just waving your magic wand and shouting a few magic words you will be able to make things disappear and reappear . . . imagine your friends and mother and dad all being fooled, surprised and amazed. You'll hold them spell-bound. They will just sit open mouthed with wonderment. They'll be delighted, for it's a barrel of fun for everyone. It's so fascinating and thrilling . . . BUT . . . the hidden secrets will be yours, never to reveal. Follow the simple directions and no one will ever catch on.

### No Experience Necessary

The illustrated instructions furnished are so simple you will master all these tricks at once. It's fun practicing too . . . for here you have a short cut to magic learning that starts you doing tricks right away. You can't go wrong . . . it's as easy as A, B, C's . . . AND . . . the set of 20 exclusive tricks is almost a gift at this limited offer price of $1.00.

### 10 DAYS FREE TRIAL

You'll agree this 20 piece Magic Set is worth much more than our bargain price of $1.00; and it is. We want new friends for our other novelty bargains. We want you to try the set, follow the instructions and if not 100% delighted, return it after 10 days free trial for prompt refund of your dollar. Act at once. Sorry, only three to a customer.




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| CUT AND RESTORED ROPE | HORSE AND RIDER |
| FAMOUS PADDLE TRICK | CHINESE LAUNDRY TICKET |
| RING ON STRING | MIRACLE COIN TRICK |
| VIS-ESCAPE | QUESTION MARK |
| MAGIC PINS | GRAPPLES |
| RING AND COIL | TWISTER TRICK |
| GRAVITY DEFYER | MASTER CARD LOCATION |
| MAGIC MIRROR | PLUS 5 CUT-OUT TRICKS |

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Name.....

Address.....

☐ Send C.O.D. I will pay postman $1 on delivery plus a few cents postage.

☐ I enclose $1 for my MAGIC OUTFIT. The Honor House Products Corp. will pay postage. Same money back guarantee.

# "Hey YOU SKINNY You look like SOMETHING THE CAT DRAGGED IN!"

the boys yelled as I dragged myself into the gym, says Jowett Pupil, Gleason R. Cleveland. Then I gained 70 lbs. and made the football team.



CLEVELAND BEFORE 90 lb. Skeleton



GLEASON CLEVELAND AFTER JOWETT TRAINING 160 lbs. of Muscle

Now wouldn't YOU Like To Have A New Body Like Mine? I added **7** INCHES to my **CHEST** **3½** INCHES to each **ARM** and to the rest of my body in proportion as YOU can.

Yours John Sill UTAH

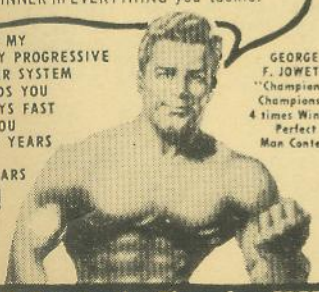
Let's go, young fellow, Now YOU give me **10 PLEASANT MINUTES A DAY IN YOUR HOME** LIKE SLIM JOHN SILL DID and I'll give YOU a New HE-MAN BODY as I gave MANY Thousands like You

**NO!** I don't care how skinny or flabby you are. I'll make you OVER by the SAME method I turned myself from a wreck to the strongest of the strong. Why can't I do for you what I did for MANY THOUSANDS of skinny fellows like You?

**Develop YOUR 520 MUSCLES Gain Pounds, INCHES FAST!**

YES! You'll see INCHES of MIGHTY MUSCLE added to your ARMS and CHEST. Your BACK and SHOULDERS broadened. From head to heels, you'll gain SIZE, POWER, SPEED. You'll be A WINNER in EVERYTHING you tackle.

ONLY MY 5-WAY PROGRESSIVE POWER SYSTEM BUILDS YOU 5-WAYS FAST SO YOU SAVE YEARS AND DOLLARS !



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like John BECOME A MOVIE STAR HE-MAN

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# I GAINED 60 LBS. of SHAPELY MIGHTY MUSCLES

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John Sill was a 125 lb. Skinny Weakling

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